

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS STATE 274625

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR EXPORT LICENSE

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED APPLICATION FROM GOVERNMENT SUPPLY CORPORATION TO EXPORT 12 TASER TWO-SHOT IMMOBILIZATION DEVICES TO THE PROVEEDURIA NACIONAL, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA FOR "INTERNAL SECURITY-POLICE" USE.

2. THIS IS FIRST APPLICATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FOR TASER DEVICE THEREFORE IT WILL ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR REGION AS A WHOLE. TASER DEVICE IS BILLED AS QUOTE NONLETHAL END QUOTE IMMOBILIZATION DEVICE. IT FIRES TWO SMALL DARTS EACH TRAILING A FINE WIRE BEHIND IT. ONCE THEY HIT THE TARGET, A 50,000 VOLT ELECTRICAL CHARGE IS RELEASED STUNNING THE TARGET. FILMS ON RECENT TV NEWSCASTS HAVE SHOWN A GIRL VOLUNTEER DROPPING AS IF SHOT WHEN HIT BY TASER DARTS. ALLEGEDLY THE TASER WILL NOT KILL ALTHOUGH ONE MUST WONDER ABOUT EFFECTS ON PERSONS IN ILL HEALTH OR WITH HEART CONDITION.

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3. THE BUREAU BELIEVES THE TASER IS A SINGULARLY INAPPRO-

PRIATE DEVICE TO RELEASE TO THE HEMISPHERE. WHILE AN OBJECTIVE OBSERVER MIGHT ARGUE THAT BEING STUNG AND MOMENTARILY PARALYZED IS BETTER THAN BEING MAIMED OR KILLED, WE BELIEVE WE WOULD FIND OURSELVES IN AN UNTENABLE

POSITION TRYING TO DEFEND THE LICENSING FOR EXPORT OF AN EXOTIC DEVICE WHICH INFILCTS GRIEVOUS PAIN AND DOES NOT SEEM SUITED TO LEGITIMATE DEFENSE OR SECURITY PURPOSES.

4. BUREAU POSITION IS FORWARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION SHOULD QUESTION ARISE. KISSINGER

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